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THE DYING STATESMAN.

Mr. Blaine Rallies, but His Life Fast Ebbing Away.

DEATH WAY COME ANY MOMENT.

Yet He May Live Several Days—What the Physicians Say at a Late Hour. A Day of Anxiety in Washington. The Scenes in Front of the Old Seward Mansion, Which is Now Mr. Blaine's Home—Mr. Blaine's Family and Friends at the House Waiting for the End—Events in the Sick Chamber.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 20.—1 A. M.—"Mr. Blaine is resting easily," said Dr. Johnston, his physician, at midnight, in reply to the usual questioning. "Very much to my gratification, I found him awake and apparently cheerful. He had partaken of nourishment throughout the evening, and the family were also more cheerful."

IN THE SICK CHAMBER.

During the Day—Universal Anxiety in Washington—The Historical Seward Mansion and Its Surroundings.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 19.—At 8:30 o'clock this morning, a reporter called at the Blaine residence and was told that the ex-Secretary was awake and that his condition was no worse than yesterday afternoon. Mr. Blaine's physicians had not yet visited him and owing to the early hour, no one but the servants were accessible. The statement given out that the patient was no worse seems to preclude the possibility that any marked improvement had taken place.

AN HISTORIC ROOM.

Not since the warm July days of 1881, when James A. Garfield tossed on his bed of pain in the west chamber of the white house, has there been such a display of interest in the condition of a sick man as has manifested itself with regard to the condition of Mr. Blaine. In the homes, the hotels, the clubs and the streets his critical condition has been the engrossing topic of conversation, and following a general impulse, promenaders bend their footsteps in the direction of Madison Place, the municipal name of the locality known universally to Washingtonians as Lafayette square. The sick chamber is the room in which the attempt was made to assassinate Secretary Seward. It is in the third story, and the window looking south command a view of the treasury, the white house, the Washington monument and the winding Potomac beyond. The one window of the room that looks west commands a view of the park, in the corner of which, within 100 feet of the Blaine house, stands the beautiful statue by Flagler and Merder of General Lafayette, erected by the United States government in memory of the gallant Frenchman who disposed of himself to our cause in the war of the revolution.

OTHER SURROUNDINGS.

In the centre of the square is the equestrian statue of Old Hickory astride his charger with hat upraised as though in salutation of the executive mansion opposite where once he held the reins of government. Across the square there can be seen from the window of Mr. Blaine's sick room through the leafless trees of the park, the historic house where Gen. Sickles lived when he had his fatal quarrel with Philip Barton Key. From Mr. Blaine's window can be also seen the Corcoran mansion, recently fitted up by Senator Brice, the Bostonian styled house of John Hay, historic old St. John's church and other buildings of romantic and historic interest. Next to the Blaine house which stands to the brick sidewalk is the aristocratic old mansion of Senator Don Cameron, where there are evidences of sorrow for the distinguished neighbor and relative.

HOPE REVIVES.

Representative Boutelle, of Maine, spent about half an hour with the Blaine family this morning. On leaving the house he said to the group of newspaper men gathered about the house that Mr. Blaine's condition was decidedly better than at any time during the past few days.

This statement was substantiated by the conduct of Mrs. Damrosch, who during the forenoon was in a pleasant frame of mind while entertaining the visitors who called to inquire about her father's condition.

All the physicians left the house after the issuance of the 11 o'clock bulletin, and up to 2 o'clock none of them had returned. At that hour, in response to an inquiry from the Associated Press reporter, Mrs. Blaine sent down word that the patient was passing a very comfortable afternoon, and that the members of the family apprehend no immediate danger. She requested that the statement that Mr. Blaine had had a hemorrhage be denied.

Dr. Loomis returned to New York on the noon train. Dr. Loomis is regarded as one of the leading specialists in New York City on the subject of Bright's disease and lung trouble. He has never attended Mr. Blaine before, and in fact is said never to have seen him until today.

Mr. Blaine slept fairly well all through the night. His sleep was a natural one, and when he awoke this morning he seemed to be much stronger than the rest. He sat up in bed for a little while and was able to converse with those about him. It was not permitted to him, however, to talk as much as he desired. All were careful that he should not over exert himself. He still suffers but little pain and is cheerful. His mental powers seem unimpaired.

All day long the street in front of the house was lined with people and every one who passed seemed anxious to know the condition of the ex-Secretary. President Harrison manifested the deepest interest and greatest concern in the condition of his former secretary of state, and frequent are the inquiries sent from the white house to Mr. Blaine's residence.

MAY DIE AT ANY TIME.

All day yesterday Mr. Blaine hovered very close to the line separating life from death, and it was realized that if

any further complications set in there was little if any hope for him. His condition, it is true, has shown a slight improvement to-day, but hardly enough to give grounds for any real hope. Mr. Blaine may live for a few days. He may live for an even longer period. The disease from which he is suffering is such that a week is not a long period in its progress, but he will never again be a well man. He may die at any time. The physicians themselves admit that it is impossible to predict what changes may occur. Little change for the better is to be hoped for.

All the members of Mr. Blaine's family are now here. Mr. James G. Blaine, Jr., and Miss Hattie Blaine were both summoned home and Mrs. Emmons Blaine, the widow of Mr. Blaine's son, has also joined the household. It is understood that they all realize Mr. Blaine's condition.

One of Mr. Blaine's intimate friends said to-day that he entertained no hope whatever, nor did the doctors. The family, he said, were reluctant to give up hope but at the same time they realized that death might come at any time.

THE REAL TROUBLE.

The original trouble with Mr. Blaine, according to this friend, is due to his exhaustive labors and the manner in which he has been drawing on the future and exhausting his vitality. He has for years been working under high pressure, until his whole system has been tired out and undermined. Growing out of this exhaustive physical state have arisen complications. The weakest parts were naturally the first to be effected, and the first local trouble was with the kidneys.

The attacks from which he has suffered from time to time are understood to have been due to kidney disease and each attack has left him more susceptible to cold and prostration from overwork. The progress of the disease has been steady, though retarded as much as possible by skillful medical treatment. The same gentleman said that he had discussed the situation with the physicians, and from what he had learned from them he would be convinced that there was no longer any possibility of recovery. He felt that the end was very near; that it might come at any hour or might be delayed for days.

HIS CONDITION IN THE EVENING.

"Mr. Blaine maintains this evening the hold he secured this morning when his conditions showed slight improvement," was the reply of Dr. Johnston. Mr. Blaine's physician, when asked how his distinguished patient was at 9 o'clock to-night. Dr. Hyatt, the consulting physician, who was present, concurred in the statement. They had just come from the sick room, where they had had a fifteen minutes' consultation. "Mr. Blaine is still in full possession of his faculties," continued Dr. Johnston, "and while very weak he is nevertheless as cheerful after the trying ordeal of yesterday as could be expected. He converses as freely as he is permitted to do by his family and partakes regularly of nourishment. It is impossible to state how long Mr. Blaine is likely to survive. Speculation on such a subject would simply be idle nonsense. I do not think Mr. Blaine is in any danger of dying to-night. Farther than that I don't care to state."

IN CONGRESS.

The Senate Adjourns Out of Respect to Senator Gibson's Memory—A Prayer for Mr. Blaine's Recovery.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 19.—The attendance of senators this morning was very small, not more than forty being in the chamber when the opening prayer was offered by Chaplain Butler. The desk and chair recently occupied by Mr. Gibson, of Louisiana, were draped in black; and the death of that senator last Thursday as well as the alarming illness of Mr. Blaine, was feelingly referred to in these sentences in the chaplain's prayer:

"Have mercy upon us again stand in the shadow of death thrown upon this chamber. * * * Regard with great mercy thy servant to whose sickbed so many eyes and hearts are now turned. We thank thee for his long and useful life. If it please Thee, spare that life and restore and strengthen it; and give peace to him and to us who watch so tenderly in this time of sickness."

As soon as Thursday's journal was read, Mr. Gorman arose and announced the death of Senator Gibson in these words:

"At the request of the senator from Louisiana, Mr. White, who is now engaged in rendering affectionate services to his colleague, it is made my business to-day to announce to the senate the death of the Hon. Randall Lee Gibson, the senior senator from the state of Louisiana."

"Senator Gibson had a very high place in the estimation and affections of his associates in this body. His great personal worth and his eminent public services had made their impression on our hearts and judgment. We feel and deplore the unspeakable loss which the senate, his state and the country bear in his death. His inestimable value as a senator and as a man is well known to all of us. His death is a profound affliction to us, and a serious bereavement to his people and the country. He was a great and good man. His mental faculties and his moral qualities were of a very high order. It is not too much to say that his love for Louisiana had no limit and that his large heart embraced in its patriotism the whole union. He has left to his countrymen the example of a useful, honorable and patriotic life; and he has left to us, his survivors here, the memory of a friendship unalloyed by regret."

Mr. Gorman closed by offering the usual resolutions expressive of the senate's profound sorrow at the death of Mr. Gibson, and for the appointment of a committee to attend the funeral at Lexington, Ky. The senate (as a further mark of respect) adjourned till to-morrow.

IN THE HOUSE.

In the house to-day it was manifest that the Christmas holidays were rapidly approaching. The unoccupied seats far outnumbered those that were occupied, but in the cloak rooms there were little groups of members chatting, smoking and relating stories. This being suspension day there came up from last session the bill for relief of William L. Winans, of Baltimore, the inventor of the spindle shaped ship. There was quite an opposition manifested. The fight was between the Winans and the inventors of the "whaleback" vessels, and the latter were successful. The bill required a two-thirds vote to secure

its passage and the vote stood: Yeas, 27; nays, 79. So the motion to pass the bill was lost.

Mr. Wilson (Dem.), of Missouri, called up the senate bill increasing the pension of pensioners of the Mexican war from \$8 to \$12 a month. The bill was passed.

Mr. Culberson (Dem.), of Texas, moved to suspend the rules and pass a bill limiting the jurisdiction of the circuit and district courts of the United States. The bill prohibits suits in United States courts by or against corporations, except to the courts of the legal domicile of the corporation in cases where jurisdiction depends upon the citizenship of the parties. The motion was agreed to. The house then adjourned.



AS IT STRIKES CHICAGO.

ABOUT "SAND BAGGING."

A Chicago Newspaper Defines the Term With Reference to the Taney-Conkey Affair.

Special Dispatch to the Intelligencer. CHICAGO, Dec. 19.—The Evening Post prints the following editorial to-day under the caption "Investigate Mr. Taney."

Since Mr. St. Clair has been triumphantly "vindicated," it may be of interest to remark that Mr. St. Clair never needed any vindication. In so far as we know, no reputable person or newspaper has charged bad faith or dubious dealing against the distinguished West Virginian who has served the Columbian Fair with so much distinction. The volunteer vindicators have painted the lily white.

Mr. St. Clair's protegee, Mr. Taney, does not stand in so happy a light. He had no vindication, and it was he who needed one.

Mr. Taney is the Wheeling editor who appears to have sandbagged the World's Fair out of a profitable contract or concession. He was using all the influence of his fourth-rate newspaper to injure the fair in Congress. He kept up his abuse until he was silenced by the contract or concession aforesaid. Thereupon, his fourth-rate newspaper became a friendly organ for the fair.

We state these facts upon the authority of Mr. St. Clair (though not exactly in his words), and Mr. St. Clair ought to know. He does know and his testimony makes Mr. Taney a sand-bagger—a silenced sandbagger, but still a sandbagger.

So it seems that the investigation began where it was not needed and left off where it was most needed.

We want an investigation of Mr. Taney, the fourth-rate newspaper man and first-rate sandbagger.

Mr. St. Clair never needed to be white-washed.

A "Dramatic" Scene.

Extract from Report of St. Clair-Taney Investigation in Chicago Times.

The committee, consisting of President Palmer, Vice President McKenzie, and Commissioner Martindale, again requested Henry Askew to cross-examine the witnesses or testify. He refused to do so, and the committee gave the representatives of the printers' union until 6 o'clock to appear and proceed with the prosecution of their charges. At 6 o'clock a letter from the committee of the Typographical union was received by President Palmer, in which they said they declined to appear on the ground that the board of control had not given them sufficient notice; that the board had declined to entertain their protest against the Conkey concession when first presented, and that the committee was engaged in prosecuting its protest against the Conkey concession before a committee of the Chicago directory.

The letter acted like a bombshell on the committee. Vice President McKenzie jumped to his feet, pale with anger, and exclaimed:

"The letter is a lie upon the face of it. We are not investigating the Conkey matter, and we have never declined to entertain the protest of the so-called representatives of the printers' union. I move that the letter be returned to them. It is an insult and a lie on its face."

General St. Clair's voice trembled with passion as he exclaimed:

"I demand that no matter what the report of this committee is, it show that these men have been afforded every opportunity to prosecute their charges, and that they have refused to do so. I want the public to know that these men have acted in a d—n cowardly manner."

[General St. Clair was vindicated after this, but that did not settle the little matter of the Conkey-Taney concession, which was granted without asking for competing bids.]

WASHINGTON NOTES.

General Rosecrans continues to improve and felt so well yesterday that he accompanied his son-in-law, Governor Toole, of Montana, to the railroad station. The general hopes to leave Washington for Southern California next week.

The executive committee of the national association of Democratic clubs held a meeting at the Ebbitt House yesterday. Hon. William L. Wilson was chairman and Mr. Laurence Gardner secretary. The committee determined to continue its headquarters at Washington. The committee decided to authorize the appointment of a sub-committee to take charge of the "special" work in the states and territories. Hon. William L. Wilson was appointed chairman of the sub-committee, with power to appoint its associates.

DEATH AND DISGRACE.

The Son of the Treasurer of the City of St. Louis

IS AN EMBEZZLER AND SUICIDE.

His Father's Assistant and Trusted With the City's Money—He Attempts to Burn the City Hall, and Failing, Shoots Himself—Over Sixty Thousand Dollars Short in His Accounts. A Popular Young Man's Fate Caused by Fast Living—The Terrible Shock to His Father, Who is Ruined by His Acts.

St. Louis, Mo., Dec. 19.—Deposed, a shortage in his accounts of \$63,020 10, his son dead (a suicide) with absolute ruin staring him in the face, Michael J. Foerstel, until to-night city treasurer of St. Louis, is one of the most miserable of men.

An investigation of his affairs, precipitated by the events to be related, resulted in the discovery of the shortage given, the immediate removal of the treasurer by Acting Mayor C. P. Walbridge, and the appointment as temporary treasurer of Charles Parsons, the best known banker of the city, who immediately gave the required bond of \$500,000 and assumed the position. It was but little after dawn this morning when suicide added its dark intimations to the cloud of charges, counter charges, denials and half suppressed scandal which has been hanging over the office of the treasurer of the city of St. Louis for weeks past.

Edward Foerstel, first assistant, and son of Michael J. Foerstel, city treasurer, at 8 o'clock this morning shot himself in the right temple, causing a fatal wound. For weeks past stories of peculiar doings in the treasurer's office have been afloat. There have been suits brought against the treasurer by money lenders, assertions regarding real estate deals of the treasurer and his son, and allegations of use of the city's money by some one who recouped the treasury.

Amid all the wild deductions drawn from the flying rumors which could not in any way be safely verified, there came this morning at about 6 o'clock the announcement that fire had been kindled shortly before in the city treasurer's office, where, with the doors of the vaults wide open, a too apparent attempt had been made to conceal the guilt of anyone who should be guilty of wrong doing. Scarcely two hours later came the news of Foerstel's suicide; then the situation began to clear itself.

A FATHER'S GRIEF.

Fortunately for the city, a prompt discovery of the blaze enabled its quick control, with the destruction, so far as known, of only some old papers and furniture.

Immediately upon the controlling of the fire the police were placed in charge of the city treasurer's office. When Treasurer Foerstel reached the office and discovered the situation, almost his first words were: "When Eddie comes down we will count the cash, although I don't think there was much there."

A few minutes later the bookkeepers arrived and it was learned that there should be a little over \$11,000 in the safe. "I've sent for Eddie," said the treasurer, "and I think he will be here in a minute."

A few minutes later the news was broken to the old man that Eddie had committed suicide.

He did not speak or look up. The only outward sign of the grief which he was undergoing was that he seemed to grow twenty years older. The treasurer paced the office a minute, his handkerchief to his eyes, and then by a violent effort suppressed all emotion and went to the comptroller.

"When will you look into things here with me?" he asked.

"As soon as you are ready," replied the comptroller.

In a few minutes the work was begun under the direction of Comptroller Stevenson, with assistants.

Of the cash on hand the young suicide was custodian. His death has closed his lips, but the last act of his life surrounds him with evidence of guilt. The attempt to burn the city hall is construed by the police as the act of a guilty man whose only chance to escape detection was in the destruction of the records in the treasurer's office of which he had control. The evidence shows that he occupied his room after midnight and left it an early hour this morning. His movements after leaving the house cannot be traced until a point after the quenching of the fire is reached.

DEATH AND DISGRACE.

It is known that about 5:30 he borrowed the revolver with which he committed suicide from James Harrison, a friend, and the theory is that he had learned of the failure of his plot to destroy evidences of his guilt and was thereby forced to resort to death as the only resort.

Young Foerstel's record is that of a wild young man and plunger. On horses he was a heavy better. He was also interested in real estate deals beyond his capacity. He was generally liked. He was about twenty-three years of age, but old in experience, and especially in financial matters, for his years. In his capacity as assistant treasurer of St. Louis, over \$10,000,000 in city funds and securities passed through his hands each year.

Late to-night the investigation of the city treasurer's accounts was completed, his books being checked with those of the comptroller and the banks holding city deposits. As a result of this searching inquiry an embezzlement of \$63,020 06 was discovered.

A Lynching About Here.

PINEVILLE, Mo., Dec. 19.—News reached here to-day that the body of Miss Noel, aged about twenty-one years, was found Saturday in the Cowskin river, near Pineville, McDonald county. The neck was broken and the head bruised, showing evidence of murder. The young lady lived three or four miles up the river from where she was found. She was last seen with a young man named Chambers, of Joslyn, who had gone to Pineville for the purpose of marrying the girl. This was the Saturday pre-

vious. The girl had been missing for a week, but was supposed to have eloped with Chambers. Officers have failed to arrest Chambers, but if he is caught there will probably be a lynching.

DR. BRIGGS' TRIAL.

The Defendant Finishes His Argument—A Test Vote on an Appeal Shows the Feeling Against Him.

New York, Dec. 19.—The Rev. Dr. Charles A. Briggs finished his three days' speech before the Presbyterian court to-day. The session was longer than usual, but the proceedings were listened to throughout by a large number of ladies and gentlemen. Prof. Briggs resumed his argument at charge 4, which he had reached at the close of the last session on Thursday. Taking up charges 5 and 6, the defendant, with much feeling, demanded that he be judged by the Westminster Confession, at the same time declaring that the prosecution was not only inconsistent with chapter 13 of the Confession, but opposition to the Bible itself. Especially was this so with charge 6.

Charge six was then taken up. The defendant said he had declared for progressive sanctification, and argued at length to show there was a middle state and that sanctification could never be complete until the day of resurrection. The invariable statement of the New Testament is that the second advent of Jesus Christ is the goal of sanctification. In conclusion Dr. Briggs said:

"I have shown that the doctrines taught by me are contrary to the Westminster Confession, but that they are in accord therewith; that they are not irreconcilable with the Scriptures, but are the product of a comprehensive study of the Scriptures. It is now for the presbytery of New York to make its decision. I pray God you make no mistake but that you may stand firmly by the word of God and the constitution of our church, and so deliver a righteous verdict."

There was a slight applause, and as it hushed the venerable Dr. Sutton rose and asked Dr. Briggs if he meant to assert that all who died pass through a middle state.

Dr. Briggs said he would not hesitate to answer, but the moderator ruled that the time for asking such questions had passed.

Dr. Briggs said that he felt it due to have the question decided then how much more time the prosecuting committee would ask, for, acting under the rules of the book of discipline, the prosecution was not allowed the argument in rebuttal. The prosecution had insisted throughout that the trial be conducted according to the discipline. He would not insist strictly on the enforcement of the rule, but he demanded that the prosecution should not be permitted to bring in new matter or matter that it had prepared months ago, and held for its conclusion. He wanted the matter settled. Colonel McCook, speaking for the prosecution, said that he thought they could conclude their reply by Wednesday evening.

The committee would insist on the usages of courts, which allowed the complainant in all sections, both criminal and civil to open and close the proceedings. The moderator so ruled. Dr. Briggs arose and commenced to speak, but with a sharp rap of the gavel the moderator said: "Dr. Briggs, you are out of order; you have had your say, and if the ruling is objectionable you can appeal."

Dr. Briggs flushed and said in loud tones: "Then I do appeal!"

The vote was taken and the moderator was sustained by a overwhelming vote, which met with applause. The prosecution will commence its reply to-morrow.

THE PITTSBURGH CRUSADE.

On Immorality—United Presbyterians Issue a Defense of Their Position.

PITTSBURGH, Dec. 19.—The United Presbyterian ministers of Pittsburgh issued a statement to-night in defense of their position in the recent brief but aggressive campaign against vice and immorality.

The address in part says: "Something like 150 houses of prostitution and assignation existed in the First ward of this city alone. Illegal liquor selling was carried on in every one of these habitations of shame."

When the police officials finally responded to our appeals, instead of arresting and prosecuting the keepers of disorderly houses and the owners and agents of property used for immoral purposes, an order was issued that sent all these hundreds of prostitutes into the public thoroughfares of the city.

For two days the police department, the guardians of the peace for over 250,000 people, permitted these lawless women to tramp our streets, to assault the houses of our citizens and violently force an entrance into our homes in the dead of night, without offering us the slightest protection from these invasions. It was even insisted by these abandoned women, who came by the score and assaulted us with language most foul, that they were directed to do so by the police authorities. * * *

In conclusion the address says:

"We appeal to the people of sober sense and moral convictions to not permit their minds to be influenced by the wanton and groundless assaults made upon our conduct in seeking to secure the enforcement of law for the protection of society. We promise law abiding, order and decency loving people everywhere that we will persist in our efforts to turn back the tide of immorality that has set in and is threatening to submerge our city and our country and we invite them to stand with us in behalf of righteousness."

The Huntington "Amateurs" Indicted.

HUNTINGTON, W. VA., Dec. 19.—The special grand jury was empanelled at 11:30 to-day and instructed as to their duties by Judge Harvey. At 5:30 they returned indictments against Tom Collins and Farrel Forgey, the two amateur train bandits, for murder in the first degree and attempted robbery. It is now almost certain they will be tried and a verdict rendered before Christmas. The father of Forgey having declined to employ attorneys for his defense, the state will prosecute.

Weather Forecast for To-day.

For West Virginia and Ohio, occasional snow, north winds, colder.

For Western Pennsylvania, north winds, snow, colder.

TEMPERATURE YESTERDAY.

As furnished by C. SCHNEPP, druggist, corner Market and Fourteenth streets.

AN EXCITING FLURRY.

And a Temporary Panicky Feeling on the Stock Exchange.

A CRISIS IS SAFELY PASSED

And the Stringency in the Money Market is Relieved—Secretary of the Treasury Foster Confident that the Present Emergency Will be Met—He is Not Worried by the Prediction that Gold Will Command a Premium—The Prosperity of the Country a Safeguard.

New York, Dec. 19.—There was an exciting time in the stock exchange this morning when an announcement was made that the big pool, including James R. Keene, I. and S. Wormser and F. C. Benedict, had been dissolved, the contract having expired by limitation.

With the first report of this occurrence there was a stampede among the holders of Chicago gas certificates and the price started down rapidly.

On the floor of the stock exchange, the whisky trust is allotted space next to the Chicago Gas, Distillers and Cattle Feeding, and that stock joined in the rush as soon as Chicago gas broke, and before this decline was stopped the certificates sold at 57, a fall of 7 per cent. While this decline was in progress the crowd trading in Chicago gas certificates and presented a scene only equalled on the floor in times of a panic. There was, however, no trace of a panicky feeling at any time to-day.

A good deal of the liquidation and much of the decline recorded was attributed to the stringency in the money market. Brokers were in the loan crowd early trying to make arrangements for carrying stocks, and the earlier borrowers paid 10 per cent per annum for money on call. Several renewals were made at the same rate and then the supply of exchange was exhausted. The later borrowers bid 15, 20 and 25 per cent and as high as 40 per cent. Afternoon one firm sent over \$500,000 to lend and were followed by other houses desiring to place money at this rate, but with the appearance of a supply the urgency of the demand disappeared.

AT THE TREASURY.

Secretary Foster Confident the Crisis Will Be Safely—An Interesting Talk.

WASHINGTON, D. C., Dec. 19.—The treasury department was kept fully advised of the stock market in New York today and Secretary Foster was in conference with his assistants several times on the situation. After the department closed assistant secretaries, Messrs. Gear, Spaulding and Lambertson gathered in the secretary's room and discussed the events of the day. There a reporter found them with no indication of any excitement apparent.

The secretary said, in answer to a question based on a report printed in New York stating that he was much exercised over the matter, and intended to come over to New York to consult the bankers: "I am not going to New York to confer with bankers or any one else about the financial situation. There is nothing in it to warrant such action. The idea has not previously occurred to me."

"You have noticed the engagements for gold shipments to-morrow and the panicky feeling reported on the stock exchange?"

"Oh, yes. But there was a more comfortable condition of things at the close, you know."

"As to the gold in the treasury," continued the secretary, "we are all right. Last month the exports from this country amounted to 7,000,000 of dollars, but the treasury lost half a million only. The reserve limit has been fixed at \$100,000,000 and I have \$24,000,000 more than that. The resources of this country are more varied than most people know and the money paid to the treasury can be used for replacing the amount sold. The money is needed west and south to buy grain, provisions and cotton, and if I can save a man five or six hundred dollars on a million he does not stop at giving me gold in New York for currency laid down for him wherever he wants it. If they get us down in this matter it will be only after a long fight and a hard one."

Continuing the secretary said: "We have nearly \$800,000,000 of gold in the United States. If two hundred millions were to go out it would result in the reduction of our public debt to that extent with the accompanying saving of interest on that amount. I am not at all uneasy regarding the situation, and if Governor Gear's friend wants to renew his wager that gold will be at a premium before the 4th of March I'll take it and double it afterwards for the remainder of the fiscal year ending June 30 next."

Then the secretary and Mr. Gear fell to exchanging observations on the prosperous condition of the country shown in the purely agricultural portions, notably Iowa, Governor Gear's own state.

A Collapse at Chicago.

CHICAGO, Dec. 19.—Denis E. Sibley, one of the oldest and best known board of trade dealers, was forced to make an assignment to-day for the benefit of his creditors. Sibley's liabilities will reach \$268,223 92. His assets are as yet undetermined, but it is thought they will not exceed \$70,000, but may possibly reach \$90,000. Mr. Sibley had been buying corn heavily for December delivery in New York, expecting that when navigation closed freight rates would go up, and with them the price of corn and other cereals. Accordingly he was caught with 6,000,000 bushels of corn, when the roads cut the freight rates in two and the bottom fell out of the market.

The board of trade men assign the failure to an attempt by Sibley to corner the corn market, but such an attempt by Sibley is denied. When the drop came his margins began to pile up, and inability to carry them forced him into bankruptcy. By the failure a list of over forty Chicago board of trade men are caught for sums varying from \$25,000 to \$1,000.

Sibley has been operating on the board for over twenty years. The firm was once Eldridge & Sibley, but of late he has been dealing alone.